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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E499

thanking everybody and grinning, and you had to admire him for his command of the occasion.

A man who is desperately ill and on his way out of public life stages a dance that raises money for a scholarship fund for teachers. Bruce Vento is a man of great bravery and devotion and foresight who represents nobly in Congress, whether we knew it or not.

(From the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 11, 2000)

He Works a Blue Collar and a White Hat

Rep. Bruce F. Vento’s last Christmas card pictures a smiling, healthy appearing grand- father at a baseball outing with the little folks. There’s no hint of his lofty position as a member of Congress from Minnesota’s 4th District. The card is an ordinary photo holi- day greeting hand-signed simply with “Bruce.” The image is a wonderful one for remembering Vento, who died Tuesday at age 60 of lung cancer.

Vento was a straightforward man, rooted in St. Paul from first to last. He was a talker and a fighter, a partisan and a patriot, a man of dreams. He was a talker and a fighter, a partisan and a patriot, a man of dreams. He was a talker and a fighter, a partisan and a patriot, a man of dreams.

Vento served as chairman of the House Task Force during the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s. Vento was a champion for programs to shelter the homeless, for human stewardship in the natural world. Vento’s last major legis- lative accomplishment was the special Hmong citizenship law signed by President Clinton this year.

When Vento announced in February that he was ill with mesothelioma, the breast he had cancer of, he said he would continue his 24 years in Congress and served 12 terms.

In the majority and as a powerful chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for more than 10 years, Vento reached the peak of his national influence on the future of the country’s wild places. His work there re- sulted in protection of hundreds of thousands of acres of public land ranging from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness to the Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge and the establishment of more than 300 laws pre- serving the environment.

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The cards and prayers, the honors and affec- tion, Vento said, were at first surprising and overwhelming. From personal cards, much mention of praise and concern.

As the Reagan and Bush administrations worked the sounds of the paddle dipping, the wind wafting and the birds singing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the word was the melody Bruce Vento makes in the woods of public policy.

...Godspeed, Congressman Vento.

CORRUPTION SCANDAL ENGULFS INDIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. DAN BURTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the world has been shocked by the recent news stories about a corruption scandal that has en- gulfed the Indian government. Already, the prime minister and the ruling BJP and the Defense Minister have been forced to resign after they were caught taking bribes from two internet news reporters posing as arms dealers in re- gard to a fake defense contract. The opposi- tion is calling for the government to resign.

The designation of Defense Minister George Fernandes is no loss for democracy. Mr. Fernandes is the man who led a meeting in 1999 with the Ambassadors from China, Cuba, Russia, Libya, Serbia, and Iraq aimed at...
at putting together a security alliance “to stop the U.S.” This meeting was reported in the May 18, 1999 issue of the Indian Express.

Those of us who have been following Indian and South Asian issues are not surprised. The Indian Government has demonstrated many times before how readily it is infected with corruption. India, people believe, is coming upon a new word for bribery. They call it “fee for service.” It has become necessary to pay a fee to get government workers of any kind to deliver the services that they are mandated to provide. In November 1994, the newspaper Hindustan reported that the then Prime Minister, Shri V. P. Singh, had directed a Central vigilance probe into the allegations of the misuse of official power by the Central government. In April 1996, when the Congress-led government was in a desperate situation, the government itself instigated a public reformation campaign, “Jab Tak Hai Zamaan” which means “as long as the world lasts”.

The corruption scandals of recent years involving senior politicians and officials taking bribes from two Internet news services last week showing top politicians and officials have seriously damaged the government’s drive for economic reform. Even if they stay, Mr. Vajpayee will have trouble enacting the most controversial but valuable elements of the reforms announced last month. These include privatisation and making labour law more flexible. The labour reform requires the approval of Parliament’s upper house, where the government lacks a majority. The crisis may also strengthen the home ministry, thought to be more reluctant than the prime minister’s advisers to make gestures to separatists in Kashmir. If Mr. Vajpayee survives the tehelka scandal, he may begin to ask himself what, exactly, he is in power for.

COMMEMORATING DOCTOR’S DAY

H. CONG. 107TH CONG., 2ND Sess. 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate March 30, Doctor’s Day, and the essential role that the medical profession plays in our society. Although we all visit doctors regularly, many times we fail to properly recognize their dedication to keeping us healthy.

I grew up in rural northwest Arkansas, where small-town doctors have historically played an especially important role in health care. In fact, the community of Lincoln, Arkansas, is home to one of only two museums in the United States dedicated to the country doctor. The Arkansas Country Doctor Museum educates the public about the heroism of physicians in Arkansas and preserves the history of medical practice in the Ozarks.

On this day when we remember the importance of the medical profession, I would like to salute the role that these country doctors have played in the well-being of our nation. We often remember these country doctors for their warm bedside manner and their home visits, but we cannot forget that they were involved in the welfare of entire communities and often sought higher medical education to better serve their patients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring the great tradition of country doctors throughout our country. I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of Dr. Anthony DePalma’s article “Y2K: A Legacy of the Country Doctors,” which appeared in the December 1999 Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society.

From the Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society, Dec. 1999

Y2K: A Legacy of the Country Doctors

By Anthony T. DePalma, MD

On Friday, May 14, 1999, a memorable millennium medical moment celebrating the